

Make your own thermometer

Concept—Measuring temperature

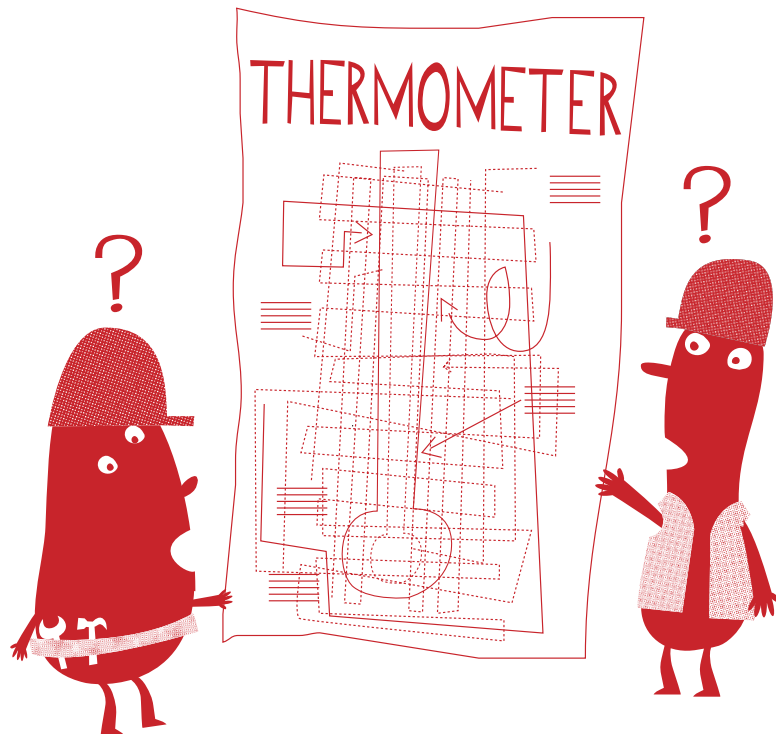
CURRICULUM LINK:

Science Curriculum—Energy and Forces strand

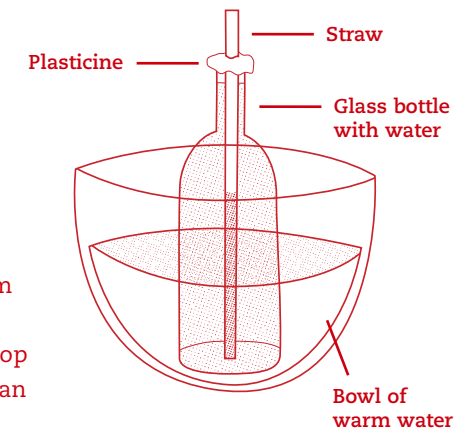
Experiment

You will need:

- Glass bottle
- Food colouring
- Narrow drinking straw
- Plasticine
- Bowl
- Cardboard
- Pen
- Sticky tape



1. Fill the glass bottle with cold water and add a few drops of food colouring.
2. Top up the bottle with water until it overflows.
3. Mould some plasticine around the straw leaving 10cm of the straw above the level of the plasticine.
4. Push the straw into the bottle of water and seal the top of the bottle with the plasticine making sure no air can escape around the edges.
5. Stand the bottle in a bowl of warm water for five minutes—the level of water in the straw should rise.
6. Take the bottle out of the warm water—the level of water in the straw should fall.



Thermometers measure temperature. Thermostats are a type of thermometer used to control the heating systems in buildings so that the heating shuts off when it gets warm enough. Using thermostats wisely in buildings can save a lot of energy used for heating.